

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1      *Sub*  
1      1.      A method of managing digital content licenses, the method comprising:  
2            creating a first license having a first cardinality, the license created by a license  
3      management device;  
4            storing the first license in a first set of playback devices in response to a command  
5      from the license management device, wherein the first set of playback devices is  
6      determined based, at least in part, on the first cardinality;  
7            storing the first license in first digital content; and  
8            authorizing playback of the first digital content with the first set of playback  
9      devices.
- 1      2.      The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2            storing the first license in second digital content; and  
3            authorizing playback of the second digital content with the first set of playback  
4      devices.
- 1      3.      The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2            creating a second license having a second cardinality, the license created by the  
3      license management device;

4 storing the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein the second  
5 set of playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality, and  
6 further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second set;  
7 storing the second license in second digital content;  
8 authorizing playback of the second digital content with the second set of playback  
9 devices.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the cardinality is fixed.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the cardinality is variable.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the cardinality is unlimited.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first set of playback  
2 devices is a hardware playback device.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first set of playback  
2 devices is a software player.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the first digital content is audio digital  
2 programming.

1           10.     The method of claim 1 wherein the first digital content is audio/visual  
2 digital programming.

1           11.     A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of  
2 instructions that when executed by one or more processors cause the one or more  
3 processors to:  
4           create a first license with a license management device, the first license having a  
5 first cardinality;  
6           store the first license in a first set of playback devices in response to a command  
7 from the license management device, wherein the first set of playback devices is  
8 determined based, at least in part, on the first cardinality;  
9           store the first license in first digital content; and  
10          authorize playback of the first digital content with the first set of playback  
11 devices.

1           12.     The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising sequences  
2 of instructions that when executed cause the one or more processors to:  
3           store the first license in second digital content; and  
4           authorize playback of the second digital content with the first set of playback  
5 devices.

1           13.     The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising sequences  
2 of instructions that when executed cause the one or more processors to:

3 create a second license in the license management device, the second license  
4 having a second cardinality;  
5 store the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein the second  
6 set of playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality, and  
7 further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second set;  
8 store the second license in second digital content;  
9 authorize playback of the second digital content with the second set of playback  
10 devices.

1 14. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the cardinality is  
2 fixed.

1 15. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the cardinality is  
2 variable.

1 16. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the cardinality is  
2 unlimited.

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1 17. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein at least one of the first  
2 set of playback devices is a hardware playback device.

1 18. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein at least one of the first  
2 set of playback devices is a software player.

1 19. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the first digital content  
2 is audio digital programming.

1 20. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the first digital content  
2 is audio/visual digital programming.

1 21. An apparatus for digital license management, the apparatus comprising:  
2 means for creating a first license in a license management device, the first license  
3 having a first cardinality;  
4 means for storing the first license in a first set of playback devices in response to a  
5 command from the license management device;  
6 means for storing the first license in first digital content; and  
7 means for authorizing playback of the first digital content with the first set of  
8 playback devices.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:  
2 means for storing the first license in second digital content; and  
3 means for authorizing playback of the second digital content with the first set of  
4 playback devices.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:  
2 means for creating a second license in the license management device;

